

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BANGKO 13508 291256Z

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 RSR-01 IO-13 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03

RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 NEA-10 EUR-25 INRE-00 /117 W

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O 291140Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6125

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13508

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: SEATO

SUBJECT: SEATO: REPORT OF SPECIAL SUBCOMMITTEE ON
FUTURE ROLE AND STRUCTURE OF SEATO

REF: STATE 171403

1. SUBJECT REPORT PROPOSES THAT INFORMATION OFFICER
SERVE IN OFFICE OF SEC GEN UNDER OFFICER OF GRADE III OR
IV. IF THIS PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED, INFORMATION OFFICER
WOULD PRESUMABLY RANK BELOW THE HEAD OF HIS OFFICE.
THIS POSITION WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT HAVE ANY TRAINING OR
ASSISTANCE FUNCTIONS, WHICH WOULD BE RESPONSIBILITY OF
ANOTHER OFFICER WITH INFORMATION EXPERIENCE WHO WOULD
NOW BE ASSIGNED TO OFFICE OF SECURITY AFFAIRS INSTEAD OF
PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE. SEATO HAS INVITED US TO
NOMINATE FOR THIS NEW TRAINING OFFICER POSITION (BANGKOK
A-210).

2. USIS BANGKOK BELIEVES THAT SEATO'S PRECARIOUS STATE
REQUIRES MATURE INFORMATION OFFICER SUCH AS INCUMBENT
NEW ZEALANDER WHO IS GRADE II AND HAS 18 MONTHS TO GO
ON PRESENT TOUR. BELIEVE HE WOULD STAY ON EVEN IF HIS
PRESENT STAFF WERE ABOLISHED BUT WOULD NOT ACCEPT
REDUCTION IN GRADE. WHILE THERE IS CONSENSUS AT PWG LEVEL
THAT SEPARATE INFORMATION OFFICE IS NOT REQUIRED, THERE

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IS NO STRONG PRESSURE TO EFFECT PROPOSED CHANGES

IMMEDIATELY OR IN MANNER WHICH WOULD FORCE PRESENT
DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION TO TERMINATE OR RESIGN
BEFORE END HIS PRESENT TOUR.

3. FYI PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN GRADE III OV IV OFFICER TO
HEAD SECGEN'S PRIVATE OFFICE, THEREBY IMPLYING THAT
INFORMATION OFFICER WOULD BE LOWER GRADE, WAS PUT
FORWARD BY UK MEMBER WHOSE MOTIVATION REPORTEDLY WAS TO
DEVISE STRATEGY TO FORCE OUT PRESENT EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
WHO IS GRADE II OFFICER UPON EXPIRATION HIS PRESENT TOUR
AT END OF 1974. END FYI

4. IN LIGHT FOREGOING EMBASSY PROPOSES RECOMMEND AT
COUNCIL REPS LEVEL THAT PRESENT DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC
INFORMATION BE ALLOWED TERMINATE PRESENT TOUR IN GRADE
AND THAT GRADE OF HIS SUCCESSOR BE SUBJECT TO LATER
REVIEW.
UNGER

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30 JUN 2005

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